

Motherhood: The Glory of God's Love as Female

Titus 2.3-5; Pr 31; 1 Tim 2.15, 5.14

MPS God ordained mothers to provide nurturing love that demonstrates His love in the gospel.

OBJ Every person can understand God's purpose for Motherhood to demonstrate His love through 5 prioritized relationships.

INTRO We live in a day where we must fight for Biblical definition and understanding because the Evil One labors and human philosophies abound that confuse, convolute, and redefine gender and their roles. Gender is neither a sociological, psychological, nor generational construct. Gender is a gift from God given in creation for His glory by the unique expression of His image.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **Gen 1:27**

Today we celebrate motherhood by considering what God's Word teaches about His great gift to us. A mother's love is unique and distinct to her female gender, that endears itself to bear with and nurture for the benefit of the other.

ILLUS We know this, whether right or wrong, when we say things like, "well, that's something only a mother could love". God designed "Mother" as a living expression of His image as female for nurturing love.

God ordained mothers to provide nurturing love that demonstrates His love in the gospel.

TRANS Now, let's go to our passage for today to learn how the love of God through mother operates in the world.

READ Titus 2.1-5

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ²Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

I begin with one essential observation from the text; motherhood is in accordance with sound doctrine. This means that what we know the Bible to teach about "mother" is not simply because of the way we feel toward the mother's in our life, but because God has given mother for His purposes. Motherhood is not an island unto itself, just another holiday. It is not a construct for us to define or design as we see fit. And motherhood is not a idol to hallow or worship. It is an integral part of God's family that serves to fulfill a unique role. What we know about "mother" is not in isolation, but an emphasis on the role that God designed to fulfill His good purpose among people. God designed motherhood to be Kingdom work; centered in, fueled by and for training in the Gospel. We turn to this passage in Titus because while it is a not comprehensive treatment on the subject, it helps us understand the **ROLE** of Motherhood through the priority of relationship. This is appropriate as "mother" leads the family in strong life relationships.

Priority of relationship "*love their husbands and children*"

Mother is defined by God as the priority of a relationship, an orientation to others. Paul highlights this(vs4-5) when he addresses the responsibility of older women for younger women to teach what is "good". This orientation that prioritizes relationship provides the context within which we understand the role of motherhood. I will also state, for the sake of clarity, that the order of relationship listed here, husband and children, should be understood as the Biblical priority as well. No amount of success in motherhood makes up for a neglect in the role of wife. And this is a significant and serious temptation for substitution. **Motherhood is the relationship that speaks deeply to the soul of and expresses the created design of woman, God's image created as female.**

The role of mother is first a role of sacrifice. [After all, the introduction to motherhood begins in sacrifice.] It may seem odd that Paul would command older women to train younger women in 'how to love their husband and kids', but consider that of all the things that create the greatest and deepest joy and frustration for a woman is the relationship with her husband and children. Scripture establishes this truth in its opening verses of creation and the curse of sin^{Gen3:16}. Motherhood demands a high level of sacrifice. This is true because of two realities: there are times when men and kids are

not easy to love, and there are times when women have too lofty a view of their manner of love. Teaching and training is required. **The weight of mothering love easily compounds upon a woman as she endears to bear the burden for her family.**

ILLUS Young moms get 'giddy' about becoming a mother only to get blindsided with the weight and demand of the responsibility, and all while trying to keep hubby satisfied. This is NOT to say that they don't want to be a mom. It IS to say the weight of burden and sacrifice demanded can be overwhelming at times.

APPL A woman consumed with self will find no pleasure in saying no to herself so she can say yes to hubby or kids. **The Gospel is never more sufficient and powerful than when a mother deeply embraces it.** Mom, before you teach the gospel to your kids or practice it with your husband, it is FOR you to believe and live in. Before you loved by bearing others burdens, Jesus loved you in this way. He is your burden-bearer. Don't pressure yourself or let societal or cultural expectations put it on you. Love them, but don't worship them nor want them to worship you. **Motherhood demands great sacrifice but it does NOT mean you must be a savior.**

OBJ **The nurturing love of mother prioritizes the Gospel through five relationships.**

Relationship #1. Self *"be self-controlled, pure"*

Motherhood demands great self-control! Self-control enables one to pursue what is right and holy against the raging demands of this world and of our sinful nature that markets one lie after the other to our hearts and minds. Godly self-discipline rests in beauty that God defines as the beauty of purity. When a woman believes the lies that the world and sin sell her, her kids will move from a blessing from God to the root cause of all her problems. "You did this to my body and now you're doing this to my mind, driving me crazy." Stated another way, "you took away my young beauty and now you're stealing my sanity!" Godly motherhood begins with a woman who is learning to live (think "process", not "point of arrival") a self-controlled and pure life unto God. This is essential for moms because it is primary for all Christians. Husband and kids don't crush her because she doesn't worship them or expect to be worshipped by them. She is mother, walking with both to love and worship Jesus together.

Mom, never forget that you are a child of God FIRST, at all times. Jesus is your strength and rock. The roles of "wife" and "mom" will always drain you and lead you to be deceived by lies and live in sin's curse if you are not resting in Jesus first. You must continually learn in order to live out as wife and mom from your relationship with Jesus, and never let it become the test of your performance for pass or fail.

Relationship #2. to home *"working at home"*

Mom, the priority of your work at home did not begin with kids, nor with a husband; but with God. [This is NOT just housekeeping, but home-making.] Proverbs 31 makes clear that the role of the mother is as steward, manager, of the home. No one else is designed to do IN the home what God has designed you to do. This is not a dormant imprisonment, but the place where your design and gifting flourish to nurture those in your loving care. Whatever the world says about it that makes you believe in some, or any way, that it is a lesser calling, repent to God and reject any sinful understanding. **Moms are not resigned to this position, but designed for the priority of a unique role in the home.**

Home is the first environment of disciple-making, first in place and priority! The home is the central garden for the gospel to grow so the family can live and bless the church and the city! When God's Word says He oriented you to 'work at home', it means He created, designed and oriented you as 'female' to uniquely nurture the growth of the gospel to impact the world through the home.

Proverbs 31 makes clear that it is NOT wrong for a woman to work "outside" the home. "Work from home" does not have a pandemic origin and is not a recent trend, but a Biblical model. Paul's exhortation to *"work at home"* does not mean it's the only place a mother can or should work. Rather, it means that a mother must make sure home gets her first priority. In other words, "don't be lazy at home" because no one else can do at home what God designed only you to do for the

home. Home is mother's foundation for her work, not the confinement of it, the place where it all begins and makes the biggest impact for the whole world.

Allow me to clarify in this way: it is sinful for a mother to celebrate, honor or cherish her career more highly than her calling from God. This doesn't mean she doesn't have a career. It means she does not hold it more highly in her heart than her responsibility for the home. Her priority is measured by a mix of energy, heart's desire and resources more than just simply by hours of time. The real question moms (and dads) must wrestle with in the depth of your heart is, "do you believe your greatest worth, value and identity is determined by 'the size of your financial earning potential or geseal influence potential', is it the economic impact that elevates your standard of living that you can make, or the quality of godliness in a person you can shape?"

APPL Mom, where you are tempted to resent your role as mother because of any "stigma" should serve as a 'red warning flag', a 'fever' that alerts you of a dangerous infection in your heart that you are allowing the deceptive and false doctrines of the world to heavily influence you.

Relationship #3. with others "kind"

When God created woman, He crafted in an intuition of relational intelligence that makes mom best equipped to teach kindness and properly relating to others in life. The family needs mom's relational intuition because kindness is a powerful force in the world that is woefully lacking. And kindness is a most potent gospel influence. The Bible says that it is God's kindness that leads us to repentance. ^{Rom2:4} NOTHING is more unnatural than a mother who, for whatever reason, is not kind. Mothers model for children how to speak the gospel by her demonstration of kindness toward others. The way mother speaks should be an attractant unto God by kind words, not useless babble.

"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." **Prov 31:26**

Relationship #4. in Marriage "submissive to their own husband"

Mother's model a first life lesson in the way she relates to authority. The way mom submits to Jesus through her husband trains children in how they should submit to God, because mom submits 'to Christ through dad', not 'to dad for dad'. Children need a model to learn how a person lives under authority on earth. Children need a model to learn that marriage comes first, BEFORE the kids. Do NOT forsake your marriage with your kids. If you do, you condemn your marriage and confuse kids in what their marriage should one day look like. Children need a model to learn what kind of person to look for in a spouse. Submission is a way of learning to relate, not a position of inferiority to endure ridicule. The godly mother who gladly submits to Christ through her husband is strong and overjoyed by God's presence in her life.

Relationship #5. making disciples "train the younger women"

Mom, the gospel is strength and wisdom for you and your family. The best way to remember the Gospel is to be actively teaching and training in it; 'the front-line work' of mom. Paul says Timothy's sincere faith that now dwells in him first dwelt in his mother and Grandmother^{1Tim5:14}. When Timothy's mother was teaching him the Gospel, his grandmother was coaching and encouraging her in the 'how to'. Moms need an encourager. Maybe this is the greatest word moms, especially new and young moms, need to hear. That "motherly instinct" that you feel the pressure to "have" is refined and forged by the teaching and training of those who have been "mom". Mothers need help! They will not be stopped by any barrier to provide for their child, but they are often the last to admit it for themselves. Hiding away so as to 'control the situation' or give the appearance of "I'm ok" only feeds the pretense of life and prevents authenticity. God designed motherhood to be a means of disciple-making, for the child, for younger women, AND for the mom.

ILLUS I've said before, as I always shall; I learned what pastoring was all about by listening to and watching my father. But I'm a pastor today first because of God's call, and second, because of my mother's voice.

APPL Mom, home is the first environment of disciple-making, where you are made by that which you are making. Open your life to others that will teach and train you in the gospel regarding the issues of motherhood. Isolation will not only make motherhood more difficult, but it is counter-Gospel. A young mom will never feel more inadequate, unprepared and over-

burdened than when she tries to face the challenges of nurturing alone. You need a godly woman who will come alongside, draw out your best, encourage, rebuke and counsel you. When I say “you need”, I mean you not only need to pray for it, but you need to pursue it. Invite it into your life, even if you think you have it all figured out. Find a godly woman that you WILL listen to, and that will tell you what you NEED to hear, not want to hear. The gospel of God’s grace in Jesus Christ is fully sufficient for all things “motherhood”.